

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 3, 5 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please enter the following amended claims:

Claim 1 (Amended). An electric connecting terminal to be connected to a flat circuit body comprising:

a plane portion;

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a pair of piercing portions erected from opposite side edges of the plane portion adapted to penetrate through a coating and a conductor of the flat circuit body and fold tips thereof in such a direction as to approach each other, wherein said piercing portions include a root portion and a distal portion, an internal surface of said distal portion being inclined with respect to an internal surface of said root portion so that said distal portion is tapered.

Claim 4 (Amended). An electric connecting terminal to be connected to a flat circuit body comprising:

a plane portion; and

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a pair of piercing portions erected from opposite side edges of the plane portion and adapted to penetrate through a coating and a conductor of the flat circuit body and fold tips

thereof in such a direction as to approach each other, said side edges extending in a longitudinal direction of said terminal

~~**C**~~
~~**C**~~ wherein each piercing portion includes a portion which have an approximately constant width in said longitudinal direction, is located adjacent to the plane portion and penetrates through the conductor.

~~**D**~~
~~**D**~~ Claim 6 (Amended). An electric connecting terminal to be connected to a flat circuit body comprising,

a plane portion; and

~~**D**~~
~~**D**~~ a pair of piercing portions erected from opposite side edges of the plane portion and adapted to be folded in such a direction as to approach each other, said edges extending in a longitudinal direction of said terminal each of the piercing portions including:

~~**D**~~
~~**D**~~ a first portion, one end of the first portion being connected to the edge of the plane portion, and

a second portion connected to the other end of the first portion including a tip and a taper surface for gradually reducing a thickness of the second portion,

wherein the pair of the taper surfaces face each other over the plane portion, wherein the first portion has an approximately constant width in said longitudinal direction.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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Claim 9 (Amended). The electric connecting terminal according to claim 6, wherein a width of the second portion becomes gradually narrow toward the tip thereof.
